U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/627,759 Amendment filed November 24, 2004 Reply to OA dated August 24, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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Claim 1 (original): A steam-supplying apparatus for hairdressing and beauty care in which pressurized steam is sent from a steam-generating portion through an electromagnetic valve and a connecting tube, and forcibly blown out of a steam-blowing portion, comprising:

a heating steam circulation passage, disposed in the electromagnetic valve, to preliminarily heat inside the electromagnetic valve with steam from the steam-generating portion also in a closed state of the electromagnetic valve; and

an electric heater, disposed in the steam-blowing portion, to heat a steam passage in the steam-blowing portion.

Claim 2 (original): The steam-supplying apparatus for hairdressing and beauty care as set forth in claim 1, wherein a vaporization space is disposed on the steam passage in the blowing portion, and the electric heater is disposed near the vaporization space.

Claim 3 (original): The steam-supplying apparatus for hairdressing and beauty care as set forth in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the steam-generating portion has a boiler to generate the steam, and a pressure-reducing valve is disposed on a steam passage between the boiler and the

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electromagnetic valve.

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Claim 4 (new): A steam-supplying apparatus, comprising:

a steam-generating portion generating steam;

an electromagnetic valve receiving the steam from the steam-generating portion, the electromagnetic valve forming a heating steam circulation passage inside the electromagnetic valve to heat the inside of the electromagnetic valve with the steam from the steam-generating portion when the electromagnetic valve is in a closed state;

a tube receiving the steam from the electromagnetic valve;

a steam-blowing portion receiving the steam from the tube; and

an electric heater being disposed in the steam-blowing portion to heat a steam passage in the steam-blowing portion.

Claim 5 (new): The steam-supplying apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a return pipe in communication with the heating steam circulation passage, with some of the steam from the steam-generating portion passing through the heating steam circulation passage and the return pipe when the electromagnetic valve is in the closed state and when the electromagnetic valve is in an open state.

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